

**CITY OF CALEXICO  
PARKS, RECREATION, BEAUTIFICATION  
AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021  
5:30 P.M.**

Fernando "Nene" Torres Council Chambers  
608 Heber Avenue  
Calexico, CA 92231

**COMMISSIONERS**

Gabriel Duron, Chairperson  
Johanna Espinoza, Vice Chairperson  
Jesse Garcia  
Carmen Estrada-Zuniga  
Susana Favela  
Nubia Martinez  
Amanda Camacho

Norma Gerardo, Recreation Manager

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Rosie Arreola-Fernandez, Mayor  
Javier Moreno, Mayor Pro Tem  
Raul Ureña, Councilmember  
Gloria G. Romo, Councilmember  
Camilo Garcia, Councilmember  
Council Appointment  
Council Appointment

Miguel Figueroa, City Manager

**\*\*AGENDA\*\***

*Due to the Declaration of Emergency, this meeting is being held pursuant to authorization from the Governor's Executive Orders. Some or all of the commissioners may participate in this meeting by teleconference as authorized by Executive Order N-29-20 issued by the Governor of California on March 17, 2020.*

*Until further notice, there will be no public access to commission meetings, however, public participation is available in the following ways:*

- a) *You may join the meeting via Zoom from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:  
Please click this URL to join the  
webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/94608719951?pwd=TlVtM0gzZWpEWXVuUEJ4dmp5SWYydz09>  
Passcode: 867670*
- b) *Or join by phone: Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):  
US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929  
205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592  
Webinar ID: 946 0871 9951  
Passcode: 867670  
International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/aez619WE1w>*
- c) *Members of the public will be able to make public comments in the following ways: 1) Submit public comments via email by 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 to [recreation@calexico.ca.gov](mailto:recreation@calexico.ca.gov) or via fax to (760) 768-2194. These comments will be read aloud during the meeting. 2) Make public comment live via Zoom by submitting the request via Zoom Chat. Persons should submit name and section of the agenda they wish to speak on such as "Public Comments" or state the "Agenda Item No."*

**CALL TO ORDER  
ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
APPROVAL OF AGENDA  
PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Presentation by Janessa Contreras and Chris Wong with the Calexico High School Eco Garden Club and Cal Fresh Healthy Living regarding the club's activities and goals.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

NOTES: (Not to Exceed 3 Minutes) This is the time for the public to address the Parks, Recreation, Beautification and Senior Services Commission on any item not appearing on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. The Chair will recognize you and when you come to the microphone, please state your name and place of residence for the record. While members of the public are encouraged to participate, it is unlawful to disturb or delay the Commission meeting with personal or slanderous remarks. If the item you wish to comment on is a closed session or consent item, please comment now. The Commission is prohibited by State law from taking action or discussing items not included on the printed agenda. If the item you wish to comment on is on the public portion of the agenda, we will take your comment when we get to the item on the agenda. Please direct your questions and comments to the Commission.

**RECREATION MANAGER REPORT**

**PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER REPORT**

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are to be considered routine by the Commission and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed. Any item may be removed from the Consent Calendar and considered separately by the Commission.

2. Approval of the Minutes of April 14, 2021.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

3. Discussion and/or Action on the Addition of a Land Acknowledgement Statement to the Agenda Order of Business. Commissioner Espinoza

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

4. Attendance Report.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Next meeting: Next Regular Commission meeting is Wednesday, June 9, 2021. Deadline for submitting items for next agenda is Monday, May 31, 2021.

It is the intention of the City of Calexico to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act in all respects. If you are a person with a disability who requires a disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please request such modifications or accommodation from the City Clerk at 760-768-2102. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting. Please advise us at the time whether you will require accommodations to participate in meetings on a regular basis. Any person affected by any application on this agenda may submit their concerns in writing prior to the meeting or appear in person and be heard in support or opposition to the proposal at the time the matter is considered on the agenda. The staff reports, applications and environmental documents may be viewed at either the office of the City Clerk, 608 Heber Avenue, from 8:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, except legal holidays. Telephone inquiries may be made at 760-768-2102. If you challenge any agenda issue in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues that you or someone else raised at the public meeting described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Calexico at, or prior to, the public meeting.

This notice of the agenda is hereby certified to have been posted on or before 6:00 p.m. on May 6, 2021.

*Karolina F. Lopez*  
Karolina Lopez/Administrative Assistant

6:00 p.m. / 05/06/2021  
Time/Date

# CITY OF CALEXICO

## PARKS, RECREATION, BEAUTIFICATION AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION



## CONSENT AGENDA







# PARKS, RECREATION, BEAUTIFICATION & SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION MINUTES

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608 Heber Ave. Calexico, CA 92231

REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, April 14, 2021

## **CALL TO ORDER**

A Regular Meeting of the Calexico Parks, Recreation, Beautification & Senior Services Commission was called to order on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 5:40 p.m. by Chairperson Duron.

## **ROLL CALL**

*Commissioners Present:*

Gabriel Duron, Johanna Espinoza, Carmen Estrada-Zuniga, Jesse Garcia and Susana Favela.

*Commissioners Absent:*

Nubia Martinez and Amanda Camacho.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairperson Gabriel Duron led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Commissioner Favela made a motion to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Vice-Chairperson Espinoza. Motion passed.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Pursuant to Executive Order No. N-29-20 issued by Governor Newsom on March 17, 2020, members of the public were allowed to make public comments via Zoom and email. The following comments were received:

Councilmember Gloria Romo made a brief comment via Zoom chat in English and Spanish asking the Commission to request information from Public Works and the Recreation Department regarding city parks and their current condition.

## **RECREATION MANAGER REPORT**

Recreation Manager Norma Gerardo informed the Commission about a meeting that took place between herself, Sports Coordinator Jamie Chew, Parks

Supervisor Mike Solano and several sports leagues and travel teams who submitted applications for city park usage.

### **PUBLIC WORKS MANAGER REPORT**

Public Works Manager Lilliana Falomir reported to the Commission the progress being made at Adrian C. Cordova Memorial Park. She informed the Commissioners that Public Works staff was currently installing the irrigation system and that the sports lighting installation project was about to be completed by Tom Watson.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2021.**
- 2. Approval of Minutes of March 16, 2021.**

Commissioner Favela made a motion to approve the minutes of March 10, 2021. Motion was seconded by Vice-Chairperson Espinoza. Motion passed.

Vice-Chairperson Espinoza made a motion to approve the minutes of March 16, 2021. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Favela. Motion passed.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- 3. Approve and/or Deny the Adopt-A-Green Area Program Applications.**

Public Works Manager Ms. Falomir introduced the Adopt-A-Green Area Program applications to the Commission. She informed the Commission that if they chose to vote to approve all applications in one go, that Vice-Chairperson Espinoza must abstain from voting due to her own application being submitted and, her involvement in an organization looking to adopt two other green areas. Vice-Chairperson Espinoza abstained from voting.

Commissioner Garcia made a motion to approve all three applications: 1) Calexico Needs Change's adoption of Kennedy Gardens Green Area, 2) Johanna Espinoza's adoption of John F. Kenney Park and 3) Calexico Needs Change's adoption of Kennedy Garden Park. Motion was seconded by Chairperson Duron. Motion passed.

- 4. Discuss the reason for removal of skate ramps at Nosotros Park.**

Commissioner Garcia discussed the need for skate ramps at Nosotros Park for teens in the community. He mentioned that he sees many teenagers on the street using their skateboards which he finds unsafe. Vice-

Chairperson Espinoza agreed on his discussion point, confirming that she too sees many kids skating on the streets. She suggested the Commission collaborate and look into applying for grants. Commissioners Favela and Duron agreed. Ms. Falomir commented that if Commissioners come across any possible grant opportunities, to let herself or Recreation Manager Gerardo know.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **5. Heber Park Expansion Project.**

Public Works Manager Ms. Falomir provided a brief background to the Commission on the Heber Park Expansion Project. She briefly touched on the application process and subsequent approval, for a multipurpose gym to the State of California, which resulted in the City being awarded 8.5 million dollars. She explained how the City solicited and received proposals from engineering and architectural firms to help prepare the plans and specifications to construct the project. After an interview process, the City Council authorized the City Manager to sign an agreement with JAA. The City has since completed the procurement process with the company and has started meetings to discuss the project's history, existing conditions, design considerations, schedule, funding availability and recreational programs to be held at the facility. Ms. Falomir will provide the Commission with an update on the progress as new information arises.

### **6. Attendance Report**

Commissioners were informed that the agenda packet contained a copy of the Attendance Report.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m. The next regular Commission Meeting is Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

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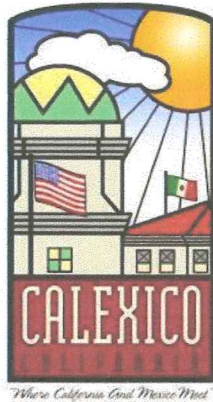
Chairperson

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Karolina Lopez



## CITY OF CALEXICO

# PARKS, RECREATION, BEAUTIFICATION AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION



## BUSINESS ITEMS

AGENDA  
ITEM

2



## City of Calexico

### Parks, Recreation, Beautification and Senior Services Commission

- ☒ New Business  
    ☐ Discussion Item  
    ☒ Discussion/Action  
☐ Old Business  
    ☐ Discussion Item  
    ☐ Discussion/Action  
☐ Information Item

**Subject:**

Land Acknowledgement addition to the Agenda-Order of Business (Code 2.04.060)

**Agenda Date:**

05/12/21

**Submitted by:**

Johanna Espinoza

**Manager Approval:**

**Recommendation:**

Adding the land acknowledgement before or after the pledge of allegiance. Code 2.04.060

**Background Information:**

A land acknowledgement is a form of reparation for the indigenous communities who were displaced from their homelands in the development of this nation. As descendants of settlers and active habitants of this land we owe respect to these

**Discussion:**

Being that we are a committee that will discuss many projects that deal directly with land, I want to suggest that our meetings begin with a land acknowledgment to honor

**Attachments:**

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No

**Manager Notes:**

Attached - General web information on Land Acknowledgment  
Attached - Code 2.04.060  
If approved, item may need to be taken to Council.

Email, fax, mail or return completed agenda item summary report, with all backup material to the Recreation Dept. no later than one week prior to the regularly scheduled Parks, Recreation, Beautification and Senior Services Commission meeting.

Fax: (760) 768-2194/ Phone: (760) 768-2176/ Recreation@calexico.ca.gov

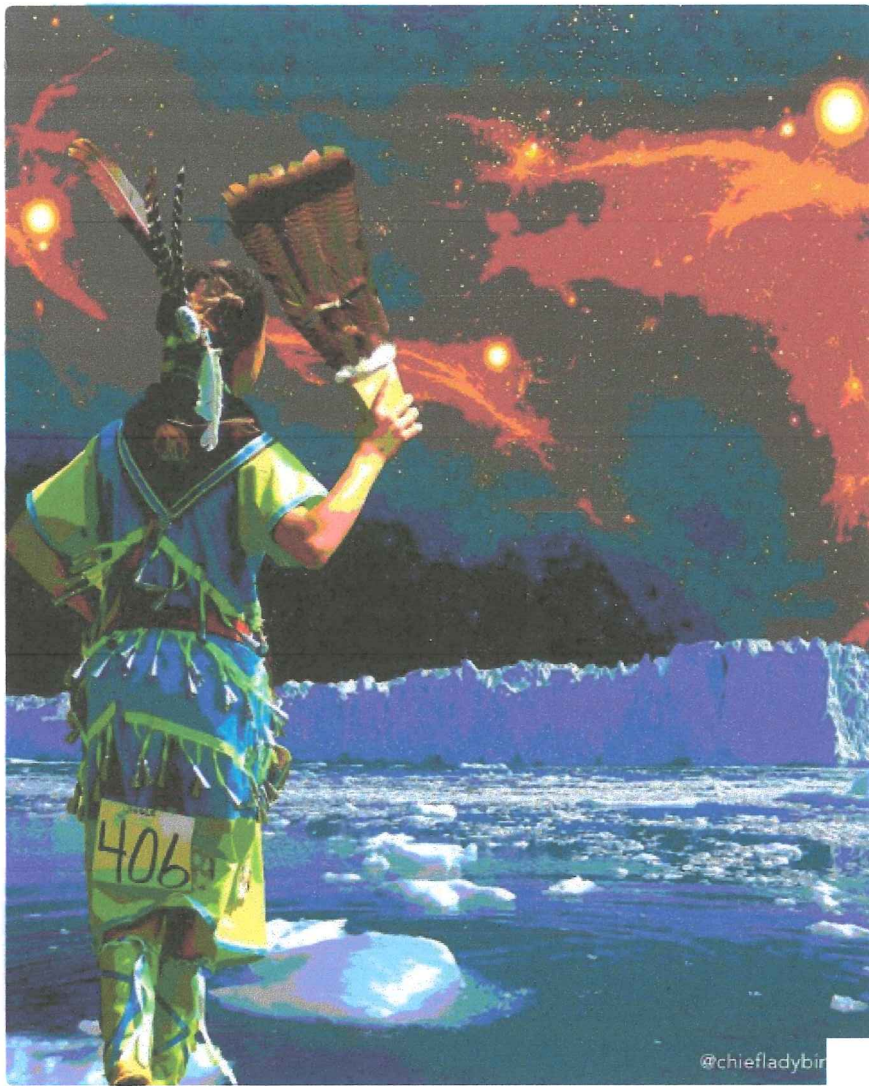
707 Dool Ave. Calexico, CA 92231



# WHY IS INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT IMPORTANT?

“It is important to understand the longstanding history that has brought you to reside on the land, and to seek to understand your place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation.” [Northwestern University](#)

“When we talk about land, land is part of who we are. It’s a mixture of our blood, our past, our current, and our future. We carry our ancestors in us, and they’re around us. As you all do.” Mary Lyons (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe)



## TIPS FOR CREATING AN INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT

### Key components:

**Start with self-reflection.** Before starting work on your land acknowledgment statement, reflect on the process:

- Why am I doing this land acknowledgment? (If you're hoping to inspire others to take action to support Indigenous communities, you're on the right track. If you're delivering a land acknowledgment out of guilt or because *everyone else* is doing it, more self-reflection is in order.)
- What is my end goal? (What do you hope listeners will do after hearing the acknowledgment?)
- When will I have the largest impact? (Think about your timing and audience, specifically.)

**Do your homework.** Put in the time necessary to research the following topics:



- The Indigenous people to whom the land belongs.
- The history of the land and any related treaties.
- Names of living Indigenous people from these communities. If you're presenting on behalf of your work in a certain field, highlight Indigenous people who currently work in that field.
- Indigenous place names and language.
- Correct pronunciation for the names of the Tribes, places, and individuals that you're including.

**Use appropriate language.** Don't sugarcoat the past. Use terms like *genocide*, *ethnic cleansing*, *stolen land*, and *forced removal* to reflect actions taken by colonizers.

**Use past, present, and future tenses.** Indigenous people are still here, and they're thriving. Don't treat them as a relic of the past.

**Land acknowledgments shouldn't be grim.** They should function as living celebrations of Indigenous communities. Ask yourself, "How am I leaving Indigenous people in a stronger, more empowered place because of this land acknowledgment?" Focus on the positivity of who Indigenous people are today.

**Additional factors to consider:**

**Don't ask an Indigenous person to deliver a "welcome" statement for your organization.** Cantemaza McKay (Spirit Lake Nation) explains this very clearly. Check out our land acknowledgment event livestream, and hear his comments at the 27-minute mark.

**Build real, authentic relationships with Indigenous people.** In addition to normal employment and family obligations, Indigenous people are working to heal their traumas, learn their languages, and support their nations. If you reach out for help, lead the conversation by asking an Indigenous person what you can do for them. Chances are, they're likely overworked and could use *your* help.

**Compensate Indigenous people for their emotional labor.** If you do plan to reach out to an Indigenous person or community for help, compensate them fairly. Too often, Indigenous people are asked to perform emotional labor for free.



**Understand displacement and how that plays into land acknowledgment.** Land acknowledgment is complicated. Remember that the United States government displaced many Tribes from land before treaties were signed.

**There are many types of land acknowledgments.** Don't expect to find a specific formula or template. Land acknowledgments that come from Indigenous people vs. non-Indigenous people look different, too.

### **Take action:**

**Land acknowledgment alone is not enough.** It's merely a starting point. Ask yourself: how do I plan to take action to support Indigenous communities? Some examples of ways to take action:

- Support Indigenous organizations by donating your time and/or money.
- Support Indigenous-led grassroots change movements and campaigns. Encourage others to do so.
- Commit to returning land. [Local, state, and federal governments around the world are currently returning land to Indigenous people. Individuals are returning their land, too. Learn more about your options to return your land.](#)

### **At the end of the day, remember:**

**Starting somewhere is better than not trying at all.** We need to share in Indigenous peoples' discomfort. They've been uncomfortable for a long time. Dr. Kate Beane (Flandreau Santee Dakota and Muskogee Creek) says, "We have to try. Starting out with good intentions and a good heart is what matters most."

Visit [our resources page](#) for more helpful land acknowledgment tools! And read our own land acknowledgment statement: [The Land We're On](#).

## 2.04.060 - Agenda—Order of business.

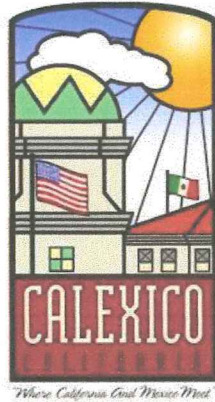
- A. All Agenda items must be filed with the city clerk as provided for in the "City of Callexico Agenda Policy" as adopted by the city council. Whenever feasible, each item on the agenda shall contain a staff recommendation and the specific action requested to be taken by the council. All material pertaining to and accompanying the agenda shall be made available to the public when made available to the city council.
- B. No matters other than those listed on the agenda shall be finally acted upon by the council provided; however, that matters not on the agenda may be submitted for council consideration and action pursuant to state law or under any of the following conditions:
  1. Upon a determination by a majority vote of council that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Government Code Section 54956.5;
  2. Upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of council, or if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that the need to take action arose subsequent to the agenda being posted; and
  3. The item was posted for a prior meeting of the council occurring not more than five calendar days prior to the date action is taken on the item, and at the prior meeting the item was continued to the meeting at which action is being taken.
- C. The business of the council shall be taken up for consideration and disposition in the following order:
  1. Closed session;
  2. Call to order;
  3. Pledge of Allegiance;
  4. Approval of the agenda;
  5. Presentations;
  6. Public comment;
  7. Council remarks and announcements (non-action items);
  8. Consent calendar;
  9. Business items;
  10. Public hearings;
  11. Information items;
  12. City manager reports;
  13. Closed session;
  14. Adjournment.

The regular order of business may be changed or suspended for any purpose at any particular meeting by the presiding officer with the consent of a majority of the council members present.

(Ord. No. 1076, § 2, 9-2-08)

## CITY OF CALEXICO

# PARKS, RECREATION, BEAUTIFICATION AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION



## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

AGENDA  
ITEM

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**PARKS, RECREATION, BEAUTIFICATION AND SENIOR SERVICES COMMISSION  
ATTENDANCE ROSTER  
2021-2022**

Committee Members	03/10/21	03/16/21	04/14/21	05/12/21	06/09/21	07/14/21	08/11/21	09/08/21	10/13/21	11/10/21	12/08/21	01/12/22	02/09/22	03/09/22
Susana Favela (Appointed 03-08-2021)	X	X	X											
Carmen Z Estrada (Appointed 01-20-2021)	X	X	X											
Gabriel Duron (Appointed 1-23-2019)	X	X	X											
Jesse Rios Garcia (Appointed 02-03-2021)	X	X	X											
Johanna Espinoza (Appointed 01-20-2021)	X	X	X											
Nubia Martinez (Appointed 02-03-2021)	X	X	A											
Amanda Camacho (Appointed 02-03-2021)	X	X	A											

N.Q. = No Quorum

M.C. = Meeting Cancelled

A - Absent

X - Present

Special Meeting